

Francis, Mayor.

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# FIRST QUARTERLY REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER

OF THE

## BOROUGH OF SWANSEA.

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EDW. STRICK,

CLERK.

[LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH.]





# TO THE SWANSEA LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to forward you the following, my first Quarterly Report on the Sickness and Mortality of the Borough of Swansea, from the 1st of October, 1853, to the 1st day of January, 1854. During that period 181 deaths have occurred, being about the average number calculated from the returns of the last 4 years, allowing for the progressive increase of population. The various causes of death, and the accompanying ages, will be found in the annexed table:—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	October 1st, 1853, to January 1st, 1854.			
	0 to 15.	15 to 60.	Above 60.	All Ages.
ALL CAUSES.. .. .	86	52	43	181
SPECIFIED CAUSES .. .. .	83	51	41	175
1. Zymotic (or Epidemic, Endemic, and Contagious Diseases).. .. .	13	8	1	22
SPORADIC DISEASES.				
2. Dropsy, Cancer, and other diseases of uncertain and variable seat .. ..	..	2	1	3
3. Tubercular diseases.. .. .	..	19	3	22
4. Diseases of the Brain, Spinal Marrow, Nerves, and Senses .. .. .	26	5	3	34
5. Diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels .. .. .	..	2	2	4
6. Diseases of the Lungs and other Organs of Respiration .. .. .	21	7	12	40
7. Diseases of the Liver, Stomach, and other Organs of Digestion.. .. .	5	3	3	11
8. Diseases of the Kidneys .. .. .	..	..	1	1
9. Childbirth and Diseases of the Uterus .. .. .	..	3	..	3
10. Rheumatism, Diseases of the Bones, Joints, &c. .. .. .	..	..	1	1
11. Diseases of the Skin, Cellular Tissue, &c. .. .. .	3	..	..	3
12. Premature Births and Debility .. .. .	2	..	..	2
13. Atrophy .. .. .	9	..	..	9
14. Age .. .. .	..	..	13	1
15. Sudden .. .. .	..	..	1	1
16. Violence, Privation, Cold, and Intemperance .. .. .	4	2	..	6
CAUSES NOT SPECIFIED .. .. .	3	1	2	6

An Analysis of the Ages in this Table furnishes the following results :—

Under 5 years of age.....	66
10        „        .....	13
20        „        .....	12
Between 20 and 30 .....	17
30        „        40 .....	9
40        „        50 .....	9
50        „        60 .....	16
60        „        70 .....	11
70        „        80 .....	14
80        „        90 .....	10
90        „        100 .....	4
Total....	181

It is a matter of great moment, that of these deaths so large a proportion as 66, or more than 36 per cent., has occurred in children under 5 years of age; and of these 44 died in their first year, many without any medical attendant, or any of the usual care to preserve life. From the foregoing table, it will be observed that the proportion of deaths from Epidemic and Endemic diseases is small, and the Borough has been almost entirely free from any visitation of a severe character, during the past three months. Owing to the prevalency of Gastric Fever in the village of Sketty, during the months of October and November, I felt it my duty to address the Board of Guardians of the Swansea Union on the necessity of adopting sanitary precautions in that district. I have to report to you, that much still remains to be done in this neighbourhood, before it can be affirmed that the causes of Epidemic and Endemic diseases have been removed; and until this is the case, there must always exist a cause for increased mortality within the boundaries of your Borough, by the facilities offered for the transmission of contagious diseases from without.

Owing to the late severe weather, deaths from diseases of the lungs and other organs of respiration, have considerably increased above the average, as also the deaths from old age, which have amounted to 13 during the quarter, one of these being a woman living at Pentreharne, who had attained the advanced age of 99 years.

With reference to the locality of the diseases and deaths tabulated, I subjoin a list showing the mortality of each Street and District, and in almost every case of increased mortality, the local existing causes would justify your Officer in believing that improved cleansing, drainage, and water supply, would materially tend to lower the rate of mortality. In some cases this has been so evident, that I have been compelled to prevent any further occupancy of dwellings in which deaths had occurred from fever, they being, in my opinion, quite unfit for human habitation.

### LOCALITIES OF DEATHS.

Ann Street	..	..	..	2	Greenhill Street	..	..	..	1
Angel Court	..	..	..	1	Goat Street..	..	..	..	1
Albert Terrace	..	..	..	1	Gower Place	..	..	..	1
Bargeman Street	..	..	..	1	Grove Place	..	..	..	1
Bethesda Row	..	..	..	1	H. M.'s Goal	..	..	..	1
Baptist Court	..	..	..	1	High Street..	..	..	..	5
Back Street..	..	..	..	1	Hamlet of Saint Thomas	..	..	..	4
Bridge Street	..	..	..	1	Jockey Street	..	..	..	2
Bryn Melyn	..	..	..	1	John Street..	..	..	..	1
Brook Street	..	..	..	2	James Street	..	..	..	2
Barber Court	..	..	..	1	Lloyd Court	..	..	..	1
Beaufort Place	..	..	..	1	Little Wind Street..	..	..	..	2
Clarence Street	..	..	..	3	Llansamlet Higher..	..	..	..	3
Clarence Terrace	..	..	..	1	Llansamlet Lower..	..	..	..	9
Charles Street	..	..	..	5	Landore	..	..	..	5
Cocket	..	..	..	2	Llangyfelach Road..	..	..	..	1
Clifton Street	..	..	..	2	Madoe Street	..	..	..	2
Chapel Street	..	..	..	1	Matthew Street	..	..	..	1
Calvert Street	..	..	..	2	Mount Pleasant	..	..	..	1
Cox Row	..	..	..	1	Morrison	..	..	..	13
Church Street	..	..	..	1	Mariner's Street	..	..	..	1
Clifton Row	..	..	..	1	Neath Road..	..	..	..	1
Cwmbwrla	..	..	..	1	New Street	..	..	..	1
Dillwyn Street	..	..	..	2	Neptune Court	..	..	..	1
Emma Street	..	..	..	4	Nelson Terrace	..	..	..	1
Elephant Street	..	..	..	1	Nelson Place	..	..	..	1
Ebenezer Street	..	..	..	1	Nelson Street	..	..	..	1
Garden Street	..	..	..	4	Orange Street	..	..	..	1
Green Row	..	..	..	1	Orchard Street	..	..	..	3
Graig Street	..	..	..	1	Oxford Street	..	..	..	1
Gam Street..	..	..	..	1	Pottery Street	..	..	..	1
Graig House	..	..	..	1	Powell Street	..	..	..	1
Grove Street	..	..	..	2	Paxton Street	..	..	..	4

## LOCALITIES OF DEATH.—CONTINUED.

Princes Street	..	..	..	4	Saint Helens' Road	..	..	1
Park Street ..	..	..	..	1	Swan Street	..	..	1
Port Tennant	..	..	..	1	Tontine Street	..	..	2
Pentre ..	..	..	..	5	Temple Street	..	..	1
Pwlllyrair ..	..	..	..	2	Treboth ..	..	..	1
Poppet Hill	..	..	..	1	Union Workhouse	..	..	5
Picton Place	..	..	..	1	Union Street	..	..	1
Pier Street	..	..	..	1	Williams Terrace	..	..	1
Quarry Street	..	..	..	1	Wind Street	..	..	2
Rutland Street	..	..	..	1	Well Street ..	..	..	1
Rutland Place	..	..	..	2	Williams Street	..	..	1
Regent Court	..	..	..	1	Williams Place	..	..	1
Russell Place	..	..	..	1	Wellington Street	..	..	1
Salubrions Place	..	..	..	1	Weig Vach	..	..	1
Strand ..	..	..	..	5	Waterloo Street	..	..	1
Sand Field ..	..	..	..	1	York Street..	..	..	1
Somerset Place	..	..	..	1	Found Drowned	..	..	2

W. H. MICHAEL,

*Officer of Health.*

Swansea, Jan. 30th, 1854.



# SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

ON

## CHOLERA IN SWANSEA IN 1849.

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*To the Swansea Local Board of Health.*

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GENTLEMEN,

The advent of Epidemic Cholera to this country in the Autumn of 1853, and the similarity of its course to what occurred in 1848, makes it peculiarly at this juncture my duty to furnish you with some information relative to the visitation which this Town experienced in 1849; hoping that by early putting in force those measures which were so signally beneficial at that crisis, we may be enabled, at least to mitigate, if not entirely to ward off, any attack of the Epidemic, should it unhappily re-appear in this country during the Summer of this year. I rejoice, however, in being able to inform you, that only one case is recorded by the Registrar-General as occurring in London during the week ending January 21st, and this not putting on an algide character. I beg, therefore, to furnish you with a list of the deaths which occurred in this Borough, from the 18th day of July, 1849, to the 9th day of October, 1849, with the localities in which the deaths occurred, believing, as I do, from the causes of disease continually present in these parts of the Borough, that should we be again unhappily visited by this pestilence, that it is here we should expect to find it again locating itself and expending its strength, for it is in this part of the Town we find fever, or any other Epidemic, if at all present in the district, dealing out death to the inhabitants of the dirty, ill-drained, and close habitations with which this part of the Town abounds, and where an entire absence of water renders cleanliness, comfort, or health, almost unattainable.

SUPERINTENDANT REGISTRAR'S }  
DISTRICT. } SWANSEA UNION.

*Extract from the Register Book of Deaths of the Sub-District  
of Swansea.*

	Cholera	Diarrhoea.		Cholera.	Diarrhoea.
Albert-row . . .	1		Island-street . .	1	
Baker-street . .	2		James-street . .	4	1
Back-street . .	2	2	John-street . . .	4	
Bethesda-street. .	7		Jockey-street . .	3	
Bethesda-row . .	1		Jeffreys Place . .		1
Bridge-street . .	4		Matthew-street. .	1	
Brynnelin . . .	5		Mariner-street . .	1	
Burrows Gardens .	1		Madoc Hall . . .	1	
Cae Bricks . . .	1		Mill-street . . .	1	
Camden Terrace .	2	1	Mitchell Row . .	1	
Castle-street . .		1	Mount-street . .	1	
Church-street . .	1		Mysydd-street . .	1	
Charles-street . .	1	2	New-street . . .	1	
Clarence Terrace .	2		Orchard-street . .	2	
Croft-street . . .	3		Oxford-street . .	2	
Cross-street. . .		1	Pontygladwr . .	1	
Cwmbwrla . . .	2	1	Park-street . . .		1
Dyvatty Place . .	3		Pentre . . . . .	1	
Emma-street . .	1		Pier-street . . .	1	
Flint Row . . .	2		Powell-street . .	4	
Frog-street . . .	1		Prospect Place . .	1	
Garden-street . .	1		Richards Place . .		1
Goal . . . . .	5		St. Thomas . . .	5	
Goat-street . . .	1		Somerset Place . .		1
Grove-street. . .	3		Strand . . . . .	7	1
Graig-street . . .	2	1	Thomas-street . .	1	
Greenhill . . .	19	1	Tontine-street . .	2	
Greyhound-street .	2		Well-street . . .	4	
High-street . . .	6	1	Wellington-street .	1	1
Deaths from Cholera....			133	19	
Deaths from Diarrhoea ..			19		
Total....			152		

It will be observed by the foregoing list, that the virulence of the Epidemic was chiefly felt in the upper parts of the Town, and this so strikingly, that a line, drawn from East to West, cutting High-street at Tower Lane, would mark the comparative severity and mildness of the visitation; and it is at least singular that this line would also mark the supply of water furnished by the mains of the Swansea Waterworks Company, and it is a matter calling for deep reflection, and affording one prominent leading, for our further guidance, that forsaking the usual track assigned to this disease in parts of low level and imperfect ventilation, it located



itself where the absence of water had rendered both houses and inhabitants filthy and unhealthy, becoming not only recipients of the disease themselves, but producing a condition which became a cause of its transmission to others. The Sanitary Inspection which I have made during the past month of these localities shows them to be at present without drainage or water supply, surrounded by open drains and ditches, the yards filled with ashes and garbage, and the houses not only overcrowded by human beings, but in some instances donkeys and pigs also, in common with them, inhabiting the same rooms. Of the 152 victims to Epidemic Cholera and Diarrhoea during the three months of its presence in Swansea in 1849, 29 became either themselves, or by their widows and orphans, burdens on the parish funds, and cost the ratepayers above £100 for each fatal pauper case, or more than equal to the value of the houses in which these victims of ignorance and neglect of sanitary precaution, died; nor extensive experience in all parts of the kingdom has clearly demonstrated that much of this mortality, by proper care and attention, may be saved, and putting entirely out of view the grief, misery, and destitution occasioned by these deaths, occurring as they usually do in the prime of life, there are no works of sanitary improvement so costly as the deaths which occur from Epidemic diseases in large communities where there is an entire or even a partial neglect of those laws which regulate health and disease, life and death.

I do not on this occasion bring before you any suggestions for improvements or alterations, as it is a subject already engaging the attention of your Sanitary Committee, who will be prepared at an early date to report fully to your Board.

W. H. MICHAEL,

*Officer of Health.*

Swansea, Jan. 30th, 1854.







